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## **Environment Alert Service Number 1, 2006**

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## **EARTH DAY April 22, 2006**

**Earth Day Network**  
<http://www.earthday.net>

**Earth Day.gov**  
<http://www.earthday.gov/>

**EPA Earth day website**  
<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>

**Earth Day 2006 : Climate Change Solutions Campaign**  
<http://www.earthday.net/resources/2006materials/default.aspx>

**Earth Day**  
**U.S. Department of State. Office of International Programs.**  
[http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/environment/earth\\_day.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment/earth_day.html)

- **INDEX OF LEADING ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS 2006: THE NATURE AND SOURCES OF ECOLOGICAL PROGRESS IN THE U.S. AND THE WORLD**  
Steven F. Hayward  
Pacific Research Institute and American Enterprise Institute

"Though 2005 offered a full plate of environmental episodes that riveted the world's attention, including environmental calamities in China, Hurricane Katrina, and the U.N. conference on climate change, the march of environmental progress continues, according to the 2006 Index of Leading Environmental Indicators released by the Pacific Research Institute (PRI) and the American Enterprise Institute (AEI)."

[http://www.pacificresearch.org/pub/sab/enviro/06\\_enviroindex/index.html](http://www.pacificresearch.org/pub/sab/enviro/06_enviroindex/index.html) [html format, several files for individual chapters]  
[http://www.pacificresearch.org/pub/sab/enviro/06\\_enviroindex/06EnvIndex.pdf](http://www.pacificresearch.org/pub/sab/enviro/06_enviroindex/06EnvIndex.pdf) [pdf format, 102 pages]

- AGENDA FOR CLIMATE ACTION  
Pew Center for Global Climate Change. February 2006

Over the past seven years, the Pew Center has published more than 60 reports on the science, economics, solutions, and policy options related to global climate change. Over that time, the scientific consensus on this issue has only strengthened, but there is, as yet, no consensus on the appropriate portfolio of policies that are required to address global climate change successfully. This Agenda is the Pew Center's attempt to develop and articulate a responsible course of action for addressing climate change. It identifies fifteen actions that should be started now, including U.S. domestic reductions and engagement in the international negotiation process. It takes a comprehensive look at a suite of climate, energy, and technology policies that could provide meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions throughout the economy. This report finds six areas in which the U.S. must take action: (I) science and technology research, (II) marketbased emissions management, (III) emissions reductions in key sectors, (IV) energy production and use, (V) adaptation, and (VI) international engagement.  
<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/PCC%5FAgenda%5F2%2E08%2Epdf> [pdf format, 24 pages]

- OUR CHANGING PLANET : THE U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006  
Climate Change Science Program and Subcommittee on Global Change Research. November 2005

This report describes the activities and plans of the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP.) CCSP coordinates and integrates scientific research on climate and global change supported by 13 participating departments and agencies of the U.S. Government. The Fiscal Year 2006 edition of "Our Changing Planet" highlights recent advances supported by CCSP participating agencies in each of the program's research and observational elements. It describes a wide range of new and emerging observational capabilities which, combined with the program's other analytical work, are leading to remarkable advances in understanding the underlying processes responsible for climate variability and change. The document illustrates advances in U.S. modeling capabilities to represent past, present, and potential future changes in the physical and biological dimensions of the Earth system. The report also highlights progress being made to explore the uses and limitations of evolving knowledge to manage risks and opportunities related to climate variability and change. The final chapter documents the program's numerous current activities to promote cooperation between the U.S. scientific community and its worldwide counterparts.  
<http://www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp/Library/ocp2006/default.htm> [html format, several files for individual chapters and sections]

- RECOVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

David G. Victor  
Foreign Affairs. January/February 2006

Sustainable development—the notion that boosting economic growth, protecting natural resources, and ensuring social justice can be complementary goals—has lost much appeal over the past two decades, the victim of wooly thinking and interest-group politics. The concept can be relevant again, but only if its original purpose—helping the poor live healthier lives on their own terms—is restored, says the author. [[Request full text](#)]

- TRACKING U.S. GROUNDWATER: RESERVES FOR THE FUTURE?

William M. Alley  
Environment. April 2006

Because groundwater is invisible, its users often take it for granted. Tracking U.S. groundwater poses a number of challenges for scientists and policymakers because it eludes technology and crosses jurisdictional boundaries. This article explain how better monitoring and management of this resource could lead to a more sustainable water supply for the future. [[Request full text](#)]

- DOING MORE WITH LESS: IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH GREEN ENGINEERING.

Arnulf Grubler  
Environment. March 2006

The more the world advances technologically, the more people realize that such progress has real costs, including dwindling material resources and the proliferation of wastes. The key to sustainable development is in productivity growth: engineering new solutions to reduce the environmental costs of human success, says the author. [[Request full text](#)]

- THE HIGH COST OF CHEAP COAL

Tim Appenzeller, John Mitchell  
National Geographic. March 2006

Supplies of oil and natural gas are tight because of skyrocketing worldwide demand, and their cost is soaring. Coal, still in plentiful supply, is making a comeback, but this two-part series of articles notes that there will be a high environmental cost of returning to coal in a big way. In THE COAL PARADOX, Tim Appenzeller writes of the threat that large numbers of coal-fired power plants around the world pose to global climate, and the new "clean-coal" technologies that might reduce or eliminate the emissions of carbon dioxide, sulfur and mercury from burning coal. In WHEN MOUNTAINS MOVE, John Mitchell describes the environmentally destructive "mountaintop-removal" method of coal mining that has been taking place in recent years in the Appalachian region of the eastern U.S. [[Request full text](#)]

- LITTLE GREEN MOLECULES

Collins, Terrence; Walter, Chip  
Scientific American. March 2006

Many manufacturing waste products persist in the environment, and some are toxic to animals and people. Health effects from such toxins are widely recognized, spurring efforts to reduce contamination and develop less-polluting processes. The authors, scientists at Carnegie Mellon University, describe their 15-year effort to construct synthetic enzymes to break down toxic compounds into nontoxic constituents. They developed enzyme-like catalysts called TAML activators that combine with oxygen and hydrogen peroxide to destroy compounds such as pesticides and dyes. Also, tests show that TAMLs are very effective in killing bacterial spores similar to anthrax, suggesting potential use against bioterrorist attack. The activators are less complex, easier and cheaper to make, and more versatile than natural enzymes. Although they are considered "green" -- environment friendly -- these activators require more large-scale testing to determine their impact and ensure that they do not create pollution that has not yet been observed. [[Request full text](#)]

- NEXT STEPS FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Assadourian, Erik  
World Watch. March/April 2006 Vol. 19, No. 2,, pp. 16-20

As the last in the series on "The Evolving Corporation," the author examines how corporations are changing their behaviors and strategies regarding social responsibility. Some efforts are cosmetic, but some have resulted in real change while attempting to become not just eco-efficient, but "eco-effective." The eco-effective movement acknowledges environmental constraints and then redesigns goods and processes to follow the laws of nature. A few innovative companies are already on that path and some have worked with The Natural Step organization to implement more sustainable operations. Shareholders and organizations such as The Center for Political Accountability have pressured corporations to act in socially responsible ways, but there continues to be inconsistencies between corporate lobbying efforts and publicly stated goals. Less than 10 percent of the biggest companies are transparent in their lobbying and political expenditures, but some trailblazers in corporate responsibility have been more open and willing to improve. However, without a reward system, it is unlikely that many of the 69,000 transnational corporations will undertake the next steps required for a sustainable future. [[Request full text](#)]

- GREENING THE TAX CODE

The Brookings Institution. April 2006

"This policy brief examines fiscal instruments that both raise revenue and help improve environmental quality. The paper analyzes several different types of pollution taxes, considers current tax expenditures with adverse environmental impacts, discusses ways of integrating these instruments into tax reform packages and suggests directions for further research."

<http://www.brookings.edu/views/papers/sandalow200604wri.pdf> [pdf format, 12 pages]

